

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00467 031207Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00
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P R 030430Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 818
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINPAC
CINCPACFLT
COMIDEASTFOR
USS FOX

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 467

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, US, DJ
SUBJ: PRESIDENT LUNCHEES ON BOARD USS FOX

REF: JCS P 152238Z MAR 78

1. AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE EMBASSY, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GUIDANCE RECEIVED REFTEL, A LOW-KEY LUNCHEON FOR PRESIDENT
HASSAN GOULED, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER ABDALLAH KAMIL AND MINISTER
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PAGE 02 DJIBOU 00467 031207Z

OF INTERIOR MOUMIN BAHDON WAS HELD DURING ROUTINE FUEL STOP OF
THE USS FOX ON 1 APRIL 1978. ALSO PRESENT WERE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENSE, AHMED HASSAN AHMED, CHIEF OF STAFF ALI WAISS AND
PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR, ISMAEL GUEDE.
THE GOALS OF THE LUNCHEON WERE TO REINFORCE U.S.-DJIBOUTI TIES
AND TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATION TO THE DJIBOUTIANS OF
THE FACTS OF U.S. PRESENCE IN THE REGION. NO PUBLICITY WAS ARRANGED

BY EITHER SIDE AND NO PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN NOTED.

2. PRESIDENT GOULED AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED PROMPTLY PIERSIDE OF THE FOX AT 1230 LOCAL. HE WAS PIPED ABOARD AND GREETED BY ADMIRAL PACKER AND CAPTAIN KELLY. AFTER REVIEW OF AN HONOR GUARD, A TOUR OF THE SHIP INCLUDED A STATIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE SHIP'S TERRIER MISSILE SYSTEM, THE PILOT HOUSE AND COMPUTERIZED BATTLE CENTER. LUNCHEON WAS HELD IN THE MAIN WARDROOM.

3. IN KEEPING WITH THE LOW-KEY NATURE OF THE VISIT, NO FORMAL STATEMENTS WERE MADE. REMARKS BY ADMIRAL PACKER AFTER THE LUNCHEON CENTERED ON THE HOSPITALITY AND HELPFULNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO SHIPS OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

4. PRESIDENT GOULED REPLIED IN KIND, STATING THAT THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI WERE PLEASED TO BE OF SERVICE. HE MADE REFERENCE TO DJIBOUTI'S NEUTRALITY, NOTING THAT IN FIRM FRIENDSHIPS A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY IS VIABLE. IT IS PROBABLE THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO DJIBOUTI'S DELICATE POSITION IN THE HORN AND NOT NEUTRALITY ON A BROADER LEVEL. IN ANY CASE, PRESIDENT GOULED SINCERELY ASKED FOR FREQUENT VISITS BY SHIPS OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ADMIRAL PACKER TO PARTAKE OF HIS HOSPITALITY DURING ONE OF HIS NEXT STOPS IN DJIBOUTI. IN ANOTHER REMARK, MADE TO THE CHARGE IN THE ADMIRAL'S CABIN AFTER LUNCH, THE PRESIDENT REPEATED A THEME THAT HE HAS MADE SINCE FIRST APPRISED OF THE NAVAL VISITS IN JUNE 1977: HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE
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PAGE 03 DJIBOU 00467 031207Z

SHORE LIBERTIES FOR THE CREWS.

5. PRESIDENT GOULED HAS AGAIN BEEN AILING IN RECENT DAYS (HE TURNED DOWN A FRENCH INVITATION TO RECEPTION TO BE GIVEN 2 APRIL FOR THIRD STAR OBTAINED BY FRENCH ADMIRAL DARRIEUS, COMMANDER FRENCH INDIAN OCEAN FLEET, ON GROUNDS ILL HEALTH.) HOWEVER, ON BOARD THE FOX HE APPEARED TO BE RELAXED, IN GOOD FORM AND PLEASED BY THE ATTENTIONS GIVEN. MOST OF THE CREDIT SHOULD GO TO CAPTAIN KELLY AND THE MEN OF THE FOX, WHO MAINTAIN A SHIP WHICH IS IMPECCABLE IN EVERY REGARD, VERY CLEARLY A FINE FIGHTING MACHINE AND A CREDIT TO THE U.S. NAVY.
CLARKE

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